

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

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DRAFTED BY: S/NM:HRWELLMAN:BB

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081633

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 81633 ACTION BANGKOK 22 APR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081633

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS PROJECTS FUNDING

REF: A. BANGKOK 6016 B. BANGKOK 5471

1. INFORMATION PROVIDED REF A GIVES US FULLER PICTURE OF TOTAL NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND ENABLES US TO PLAN BETTER ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS.

2. WE REALIZE MANY PROJECTS, ESPECIALLY HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR, STILL IN FORMATIVE STAGES. NONETHELESS, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU PROVIDE TO EXTENT PRACTICABLE ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF OBLIGATIONS FOR PROJECTS UNDERWAY. ALSO SUGGEST THAT YOU BEGIN TO REQUEST ALLOTMENTS FOR THOSE PROJECTS WHICH ARE READY AND WILL BE OBLIGATED FIRST. FINALLY, IF PROBLEMS ARISE THAT MAY PREVENT OBLIGATIONS AS ESTIMATED REF A, PLEASE KEEP US ADVISED ON NATURE OF PROBLEMS AND SUMS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED BECAUSE OF THEM (RECENT EXCHANGE OF CABLES ON HELICOPTER PROGRAM IS CONFIDENTIAL

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CASE IN POINT).

3. APPRECIATE KNOWING WHETHER "VEHICLES" IN CUSTOMS PROJECT INCLUDES BOATS. IF SO, PLEASE PROVIDE EMBASSY COMMENT AND FORWARD COPIES OF ANY SUPPORTING STUDIES.

4. ALSO APPRECIATE KNOWING MORE ABOUT PLANT FOR HIGHLAND

MINT PRODUCTION AS SPECIAL IMPACT PROJECT. HAS MORE DEFINITIVE PROPOSAL BEEN PREPARED?

5. WE NOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT A THAI CONTRACTOR IS EVIDENTLY BEING CONSIDERED TO PERFORM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT. ASSUMING THAT THAI COSTS WOULD BE LESS THAN THOSE FOR AN OUTSIDE CONTRACTOR, IS THE SUM REQUESTED STILL AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE? APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON WHETHER PROPRIETARY PROCUREMENT IS BEING CONSIDERED.

6. WE PERCEIVE NO PROBLEMS AT THIS TIME FOR EARLY ALLOTMENT/OBLIGATIONS FOR FY75 AS WE MOST LIKELY WILL BE CONDUCTING THE PROGRAM UNDER CONTINUING RESOLUTION.

7. WHILE U.S. HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE ON THE OVERALL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM, THE RTG HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS INTEREST AND IS AWARE THAT THESE PROGRAMS REDOUND TO THAILAND'S LONG-TERM BENEFIT. WE NOTE FROM PARA. 5, REF B THAT THE RTG APPARENTLY IS NOT PREPARED AT PRESENT TO COMMIT OWN BUDGETARY RESOURCES IN SUPPORT OF THE PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION. WE DO NOT WISH TO HOLD UP THE PROGRAMS BY INSISTING ON AN RTG CONTRIBUTION AT THIS TIME, BUT WE DO EXPECT RTG TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION DURING ITS NEXT BUDGET CYCLE AND REQUEST THAT THE EMBASSY MAKE THIS CLEAR TO RTG. IN THE MEANTIME, YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECTS, INCLUDING CONVERSION OF DOLLARS TO BAHT.

8. WE ASSUME IN ANY CASE THAT QUESTIONS RAISED PARAS 4-7 ABOVE WILL BE ADDRESSED IN PROP-TYPE DOCUMENTS TO BE FORWARDED AS PROJECTS ARE DEVELOPED. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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